



HAVE YOUR SAY

REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024

Effective representation for Kaipara District Council



SUMMARY

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) requires all local authorities to undertake a representation arrangements review at least once every six years.

Kaipara District Council's last review was undertaken in 2021 (for the 2022 local government elections) with nine councillors being elected from four wards, plus the mayor.

The next review would normally happen in 2027. However the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 was enacted on 30 July 2024. Under this Act, Kaipara District Council had to decide by 6 September 2024 whether to retain or disestablish its Māori ward.

To meet the legislated deadlines, an extraordinary meeting was called on 7 August 2024. At that meeting, Council resolved to disestablish its Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori Ward. As a result, a shortened representation review was required to quickly establish representation arrangements for the 2025 triennial elections. The shortened representation review does not include reconsideration of whether or not there is a Māori ward for Kaipara.

In the years since the last review in 2021, Kaipara has grown and changed. This growth needs to be reflected in the review to ensure equal and fair representation for all those in the district.

This review looks at Council's membership to ensure we're providing the right representation for our people and their communities. Each elected member should represent a similar number of people.

This Initial Proposal outlines the proposed changes and gives all residents and ratepayers the opportunity to have a say before a final decision is made.

Any changes will apply for at least the next Kaipara District Council elections in 2025. Please take the time to read this proposal and have your say.

The proposed changes included in the Initial Proposal are:

- Total councillors to be 8 (down from 9) plus mayor (elected-at-large), aligns the population-to-councillor ratio more closely with that of the other Northland territorial authorities.
- The boundary of the Wairoa General Ward and Otamatea General Ward is to mainly align with the boundary of the existing Wairoa General Ward and Otamatea General Ward except for a small area (110 people) proposed to be transferred from the Wairoa General Ward to the Otamatea General Ward. This is to ensure the wards meet the fair representation ratio. Three councillors to represent Wairoa General Ward and two councillors to represent Otamatea General Ward – same as the current arrangement.
- Kaiwaka-Mangawhai General Ward to stay the same ward boundary as it is currently, with three councillors.



Submissions close 5.00pm Wednesday 2 October 2024. Find out how to have your say at the back of this document.

WHAT IS A REPRESENTATION REVIEW?

A representation review, which is required by law¹ at least once every six years, looks at:

The total number, of
councillors to be elected

The number of councillors
to be elected per ward



The number, boundaries
and names of the wards
where councillors will be
elected from

Whether community
boards are established

Two decisions have already been made

Council resolved to disestablish its Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori Ward on 7 August 2024. The shortened representation review can't include reconsideration of whether or not there is a Māori ward for Kaipara.

Council has considered the legislative requirements for community boards and determined not to establish community boards.

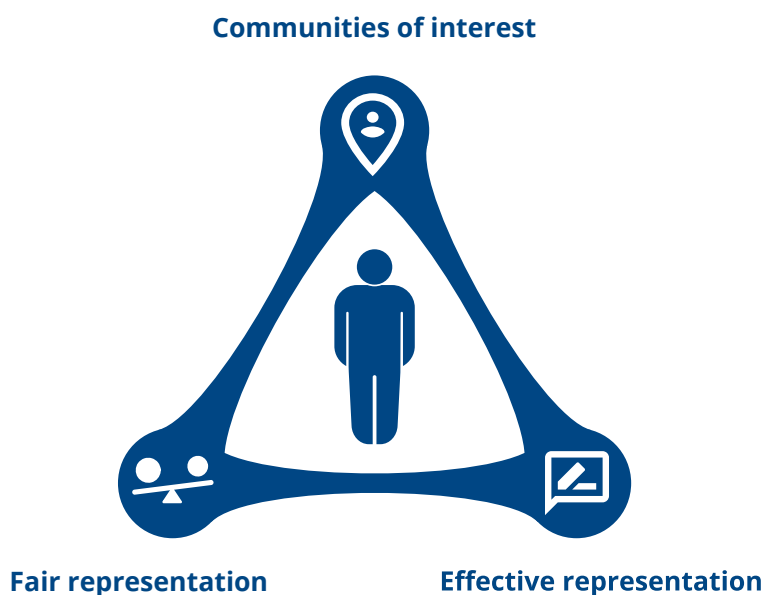
What electoral system does Kaipara District Council use?

In 2023 Council agreed to introduce the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system for the 2025 and 2028 Local Government elections. First Past the Post means the candidate(s) with the most votes are elected.

¹ Local Electoral Act (LEA) 2001

WHAT THINGS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED?

Council has to carefully consider the following three factors when deciding on an Initial Proposal for public consultation:



What is fair representation?

Fair representation is about each councillor representing an approximately equal number of people – this helps ensure that all votes are of approximately equal value. After the Council has identified proposed wards, the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires that each councillor represents approximately the same number of people, plus or minus 10%.

What is effective representation?

Effective representation considers the number of councillors in relation to things like the size and geography of the area and the diversity of its people. Some examples include ease of access to your local councillors and how well they are able to represent the diverse range of people and interests in their area.

What are communities of interest?

Council must ensure that the election of councillors provides effective representation of the various communities that make up the Kaipara District. Giving proper consideration to defining communities of interest is therefore a key part of the representation review process.

However, the term “community of interest” is not defined in legislation (the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA)). In reality, “communities of interest” can mean different things to different people and it can (and probably has) changed over time.

WHAT IS THE STATUS QUO?

Kaipara District has one mayor who is elected 'at large'. Eight general ward councillors are elected from three general wards, and one Māori ward councillor from one Māori ward (Te Moananui o Kaipara). There are no community boards.

| Ward | Population | Councillors | Ratio |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| Kaiwaka-Mangawhai General Ward | 9,260 | 3 | 3,087 |
| Otamatea General Ward | 5,240 | 2 | 2,620 |
| Wairoa General Ward | 8,890 | 3 | 2,963 |
| Total general | 23,390 | 8 | 2,924 |
| Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori Ward | 3,880 | 1 | 3,880 |

The map below shows the current wards



WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

We are now asking for your feedback on an Initial Proposal that meets legislative requirements.

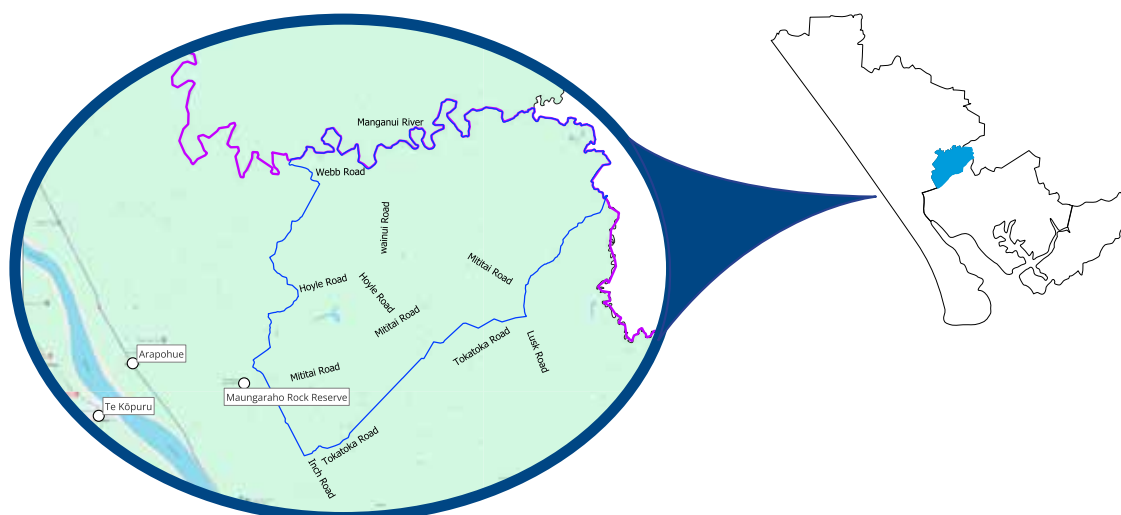
We're proposing to have eight councillors represented from three general wards. The mayor is elected 'at large' and represents the whole district. There will be no community boards.

The proposed three wards are:

| Ward | Communities of interest |
|-------------------|--|
| Kaiwaka-Mangawhai | The area comprising the southeast section of Kaipara, including Kaiwaka, Mangawhai township and Mangawhai Heads and surrounding areas, Oruawharo, Oneriri Peninsula and Hakaru. |
| Otamatea | The area comprising the State Highway 12 townships from Tokatoka to Maungatūroto, including Ruawai, Matakoho, Paparoa, Taipuha, Ararua, Pahi, Whakapirau and Tinopai. |
| Wairoa | Area comprised of Dargaville township, plus the area surrounding Dargaville, through to Waipoua Forest, including Kaihu, Aranga, Donnellys Crossing, Mamaranui, Omamari, Baylys Beach, Hoanga, Tangowahine, Tangiteroria, Te Kōpuru, Pouto, Turiwiri and Arapohue. |

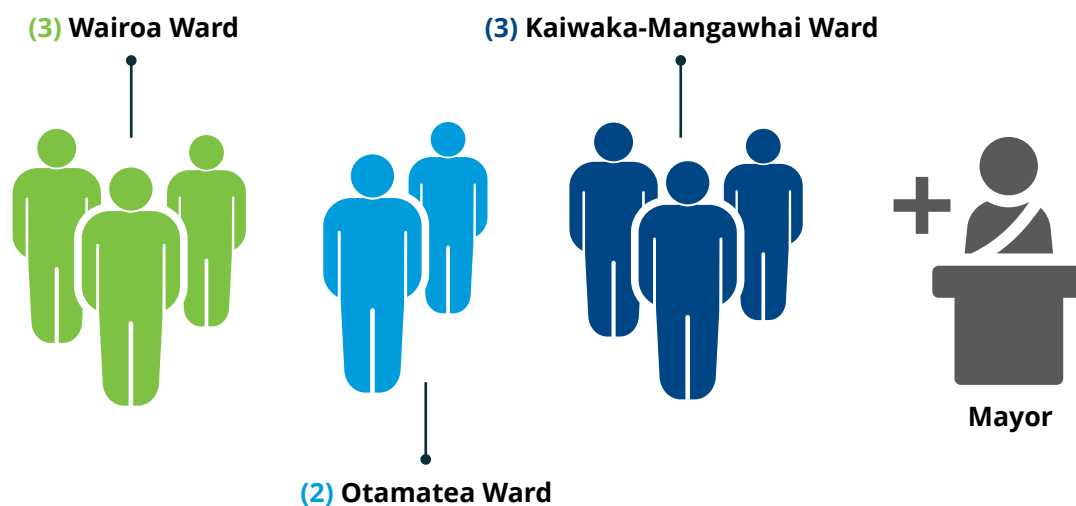
The map below shows the proposed wards.





The population that each councillor will represent is as follows:

| Ward | Population | Councillors | Ratio | % Variation |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| Kaiwaka-Mangawhai | 10,050 | 3 | 3,350 | -1.58% |
| Otamatea | 6,180 | 2 | 3,090 | -9.22% |
| Wairoa | 11,000 | 3 | 3,667 | 7.72% |
| Total | 27,230 | 8 | 3,404 | |



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Submissions must be with Kaipara District Council by 5.00pm Wednesday 2 October 2024.

2024



10 September–2 October **Submission period**

Public notice made on 10 September, followed by a three-week submission period.



9 October **Hearings**

Hearings will be held for those who wish to present their submission in person.



16 October **Deliberations**

Council will consider all submissions.



30 October **Final Proposal**

A Final Proposal with or without any amendments will be adopted by Council on 30 October 2024.



November **Objection/appeal period**

Formal public notice of the Final Proposal will be made in early November, with a three-week objection/appeal period.

HOW DO I HAVE MY SAY?

You can make a submission online, or fill out the form on the next page.

Online www.kaipara.govt.nz/repreview

Email haveyoursay@kaipara.govt.nz

Mail Representation Review 2024
Kaipara District Council
Private Bag 1001
Dargaville 0340



We encourage online feedback to help keep costs down.



**Submissions close 5.00pm
Wednesday 2 October 2024.**

Important notes

The questions in the feedback form are designed to be read in conjunction with this Representation Review 2024 – Initial Proposal information booklet.

To help us decide our final representation arrangements and the make-up of the wards, you can give feedback on:



Ward locations and boundaries



Number of councillors



Names of wards

Want to find out more?

Go to www.kaipara.govt.nz/repreview for frequently asked questions

Attend a drop-in session in Dargaville or Mangawhai

1.30-5.00pm Tuesday 24 September - Mangawhai

KDC Office, The Hub Unit 6/6 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai

1.30-5.00pm Thursday 26 September - Dargaville

KDC Office, 32 Hokianga Road, Dargaville

Council staff are available to chat – call us on **0800 727 059** if you would like to arrange a meeting.

HAVE YOUR SAY REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024

Submissions close at 5.00pm Wednesday 2 October 2024.

Please ensure you provide appropriate contact details so we may contact you easily if you wish to speak to your submission. Emails are our preferred form of communication.

Please note that all submissions are considered public under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, and your name and feedback will be available to the public via our reports and website. All other personal details you provide will remain private.

Full name _____

Organisation _____

(if giving feedback on behalf of)

Postal address _____

Email address _____

Contact phone number _____

My current ward is: (tick one which applies)

- Wairoa
 Otamatea
 Kaiwaka-Mangawhai
 Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori

I support oppose (tick one which applies)

Council's proposed representation review arrangements for the 2025 elections (Initial Proposal).

My reasoning for my above statement is: _____

Do you wish to speak to your submission? Yes No

Preferred location: Dargaville Mangawhai

The hearings are scheduled for the week of 9 October 2024



**Kaipara
DISTRICT**

Kaipara te Orangaui • Two Oceans Two Harbours

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